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Redmons returning after lifetime of service

By Wally Poor
IMB Americas Correspondent

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — When Don Redmon got to Costa Rica in 1964, he thought he'd only be here a year. Instead the International Mission Board missionary has been here for almost 34 years.

In August, Don, of Florida and his wife, Jo, of Pontotoc County, Miss., will return to the United States for their final furlough and retirement.

The Redmons, who met as students at Mississippi College in Clinton, were appointed as missionaries to Uruguay in December, 1963. They came to Costa Rica, as do all IMB missionaries appointed to Spanish-speaking Latin American countries, for a year of language study.

During the year, when the Irazu volcano near San Jose was belching smoke and ash, the Redmons agreed it would be nice to leave and get on to Uruguay.

Missionaries in Costa Rica had their eyes on the Redmons and the Doyles, who were going to Argentina. They asked the Board to approach the two couples about staying in Costa Rica.

The two young couples talked and prayed together about the decision.

"There's no doubt we made the right decision," said Don.

For their first two terms, the Redmons served as church planters in Costa Rica's Atlantic region.

In 1975, the Redmons moved to San Jose and planted a church in the then undeveloped western part of the city called Rhomoser.

"Jo and I saw that the city was going to grow that way



HEADING HOME — Missionaries Don and Jo Redmon, who have served as Southern Baptist missionaries in Costa Rica for 34 years, will return home in August for furlough prior to retirement. Don pastored in Mississippi, and Jo is a native Mississippian. The Redmons have planted churches and Don has served for many years as business manager/treasurer of the Costa Rica Baptist Mission. (IMB photo by Betty Poor)

although at the time the only thing there was the city's garbage dump," Don said.

Now the area has developed into an upper class neighborhood. The U.S. Embassy stands where the dump once was.

Those were busy years for the Redmons. They were raising four children.

In addition to church planting, Don was asked to take on the work of business manager and treasurer of the mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries).

He was also director of the Baptist camp.

"My first love in Costa Rica has been working with people. Witnessing, preaching, and teaching, seeing people come to

know the Lord, baptizing, the follow-up.

"The greatest need we have in Costa Rica now is to win people and train them and see that they develop spiritually to be strong leaders in our churches. One of our greatest needs is leadership in the churches," he pointed out.

Being treasurer of the mission has had its benefits, Don said.

"Being the treasurer has opened doors that otherwise I wouldn't have had opened to me. It's opened doors into lawyer's offices and government offices and court rooms. I've had an opportunity to meet people and witness many times."

Don cited as an example

when the mission was defending a suit against a church in Limon. The plaintiff sought to seize the church's property.

"Our lawyer was very, very concerned. He's not a Christian.

"I told him, 'Relax, we're here to defend the church. The church belongs to the Lord and the Lord is going to solve this,'" Don said.

"You have more faith than I do," the lawyer replied.

The next day, when the mission won the suit, Don told the lawyer, "I told you we were going to win."

"It was a real joy to witness to him and see his reaction," Don said.

"Many doors have been opened that I would not have had the opportunity to get to know people and witness to them," he added.

Steve Sloas, a new missionary, who is both a lawyer and a certified public accountant, is now working with Don to become the new treasurer.

Still, as he turns the treasurer's work over to the younger man, Don has a sense of satisfaction in knowing it will be in good hands.

"It makes me feel good. I tried to do a good job in office.

"I've always been conscious that the money that comes from the International Mission Board is not my money, it's the Lord's money."

The Redmons leave Costa Rica Aug. 1. They will miss their adopted land.

They will live in a house furnished by First Church of Panama City, Fla. while they fix up Don's old home place.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Garaywa setting records

A special day at Gulfshore

Mississippi siblings retire

VBS revamp a success

TV ratings to undergo changes

The television industry — minus one network — has agreed to revise its six-month-old ratings system to include new symbols to warn viewers about programs that include sex, violence, and offensive language.

Cable and broadcast networks, except for NBC, have committed to use letters at the start of programs to denote specific content.

The new ratings will be S for sexual depictions, V for violence, L for foul language, and D for suggestive dialogue. The new system will go into effect Oct. 1, "The Washington Post" reported July 10.

The new symbols will be added to the oft-criticized, age-based ones in effect since January. The criticism of the current ratings system has been its failure to provide parents with specific information in choosing programs suitable for viewing.

The new system will include an additional symbol, PV, for children's programs that include "fantasy violence," the newspaper reported.

Looking back

10 years ago

Freeny Church, four miles south of Carthage, has experienced a 65% increase in Sunday School attendance since starting the Sunday School Growth Spiral program. Attendance has grown from 74 in Feb. to 122 in June. Lee Hudson is pastor.

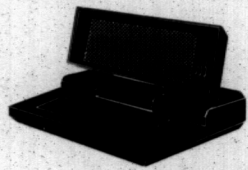
20 years ago

Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg has already completed two of three planned summer missions projects — sponsoring a "Starlight Crusade" in the city park during June, Back Yard Bible Clubs in July, and a mission Vacation Bible School in August. Paul Brooks is pastor.

50 years ago

"Two years after the war's end there are still millions of people in all European nations who are far worse off than at any time since the beginning of the war," writes Mississippian J. D. Franks from Europe, where he is representing the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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The tragedy of unheeded warnings

We can't say we weren't warned. Devalue any human life, the ethicists said, and start down the slippery slope that leads to devaluing all human life.

First came legalized abortion in the U.S., billed as a humane way to end the plague of "unwanted" babies. Now comes the widespread argument that legalizing the humane destruction of terminally-ill patients — assisted suicide — is the only civilized thing to do.

However, an authoritative report just released by the American Medical Association details how 20 years of sterile-sounding assisted suicide in the Netherlands has plunged that gentle, picturesque country into a full-blown culture of death.

The Netherlands "has moved from considering assisted suicide to giving legal sanction to both physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, from euthanasia for terminally ill patients to euthanasia for those who are chronically ill, from euthanasia for physical illness to euthanasia for psychological distress, and from voluntary euthanasia to nonvoluntary and involuntary euthanasia."

Involuntary euthanasia.

The report, which appeared in the June 4 issue of the prestigious Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and is described herein based on a Baptist Press article, recounted the sad end of one Dutch woman ravaged by breast cancer. Despite her clear and stated wish not to be euthanized, her physician ended her life without permission.

Why? "It could have been another week before she dies. Just needed the bed," JAMA quoted one of the doctors as explaining.

Such conduct is not the exception. Fully 25% of the Dutch doctors surveyed for the JAMA article admitted they had terminated the lives of patients without an explicit request from the patient. Nearly 60% of the doctors don't even bother to document their involvement in euthanasia and assisted suicide, JAMA reported.

Although originally intended as the humane response to the exceptional case, euthanasia has become an accepted, almost-preferred way of dealing with difficult situations in the Netherlands.

So horrified were the authors of the JAMA report — an American medical school professor, an international law expert, and a Dutch physician — that they concluded by calling on the U.S. to "avoid making the Dutch mistake."

As America stands on the precipice of making the Dutch mistake, Christians must pray and make their voice heard loudly and distinctly on the value of human life.

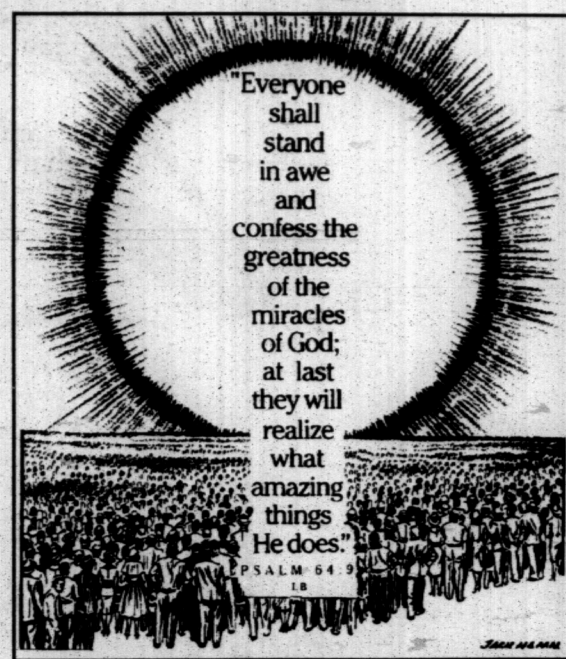
The phrase, Sanctity of Human Life, has for many years been closely attached to the pro-life movement in this country, but its true meaning is much deeper and wider.

God is the author of all life. As he has expressed many times in his Word, individual humans are precious to him.

It's a fact that the Creator of this incredible universe, the complexity of which continues to unfold before our amazed eyes, takes time from his busy schedule to become personally involved in every step of our lives, from before our conception to our final seconds and beyond.

He sent his precious, only-begotten Son to save each one of us. He must think we're worth the effort.

Therefore when we take for ourselves



the decision of death for other humans, we have taken an awesome power that belongs only to God.

We must be an arrogant race to believe we can get away with that.

Once on our way down the slippery slope, there seems to be no end to the depravity. The next great culture of death proposal on the horizon is "pedothasia" — the rounding up and euthanizing of unwanted or abandoned children deemed by society to have no future.

You may think it can't happen here, but we've already started down the slope. We have been warned. Will we heed the warnings? What's to stop us from going all the way?

Only the earnest prayers and bravery of God's chosen people. Start praying, and get involved.

Two days after Christmas my sweet Mama died. I am thankful that her passing into heaven was easy.

Until two weeks before she died, she enjoyed good health, probably because she ate a lot of vegetables, walked two miles every day, and never used alcoholic beverages or cigarettes.

However, I'm thankful for more than her good health. I am thankful for the years she got us up every Sunday morning, dressed us, fed us a good hot breakfast, and went to church with us.

Come to think of it, I'll bet a lot of people in Mississippi are thankful for the same kind of nurturing in their homes. Someone walked before us, setting an example.

I am grateful to God for all the women in Mississippi who are faithful servants of the Lord. Sometimes we take for granted all their hard work!

Kuma Hedgepath from Jackson is one I admire. She never fails to show up with tasty refreshments for all the international families who come to First Church, Jackson, on Thursday mornings to learn English as a second language.

She is a busy lady, serving as the Woman's Missionary Union leader this year, coordinating all the activities for women in a million ways.

I could spend the rest of this column talking about her accomplishments, but I pause to think of three more women.

Barbara Wolfe is a soul winner. I went on a trip once with her, and she used her witnessing training to lead a man next to her to know Jesus as his Saviour — right there on the plane.

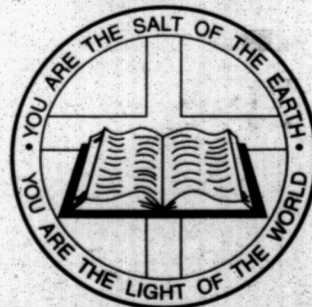
GUEST OPINION:



A time to celebrate Godly women

By Edna M. Ellison, member
First Church, Jackson

**Women's Recognition Sunday
July 20, 1997**



**Christian Action Commission
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

It seems that miracles happen to her wherever she goes.

Recently she was speaking to a small group of women in California and she said, "My daddy died on an offshore oil rig when I was eight, and he is in hell today because no one led him to know Jesus as his Saviour."

A woman in the audience asked, "Did he die in Texas?" He did.

"Are you D.B. Gillis's daughter?" the

woman asked.

Thunderstruck, Barbara nodded yes.

"Then I am the one who failed to witness to him. I've always wondered what happened to your family. You moved the next day, and I've sought closure to the mystery ever since. I'm so glad you are a Christian!" the woman said.

God used Barbara to bless the California woman that day.

I could name a hundred Mississippi women whom God blesses in special ways.

There's Debbie McElveen, who went back to school and got a nursing degree so she could offer parish nursing to the community around her church.

There's Debi Kolb, who's helping a grown MK (missionary kid) in Clinton start life over again after several years in prison.

Debi and her friend, Jo Patterson, are two of the many brave women I know in this state who visit prisons, teaching women the Bible and leading them to Jesus.

When my Mama died, a line of people came by and said a lot of nice things about her.

I hope when I die, people will say, "There goes a godly woman." That is all.

I am blessed to know many godly women. Aren't you?

On July 20, Mississippi Baptists will celebrate Women's Recognition Sunday. Take time to thank a woman who has been a faithful servant and an example before you in your Christian walk.

Ellison is the Women on Mission consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

'Growing Churches for Tomorrow' set for Gulfshore

The equipping team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is offering two "Growing Churches for Tomorrow" weekends at Gulfshore Assembly on July 24-26 and July 31-Aug. 2, according to Larry

Salter, consultant for the MBCB Sunday School Department.

Each weekend begins with registration at 4 p.m. on Thursday and concludes with lunch on Sunday.

Parents are encouraged to

bring their preschoolers, children, and youth. There will be special activities and Bible studies for them during the conference times.

The July 24-26 weekend focuses on Bible study while the July 31-Aug 2 weekend focuses on discipleship and family ministry.

Each weekend offers six conference session times, with multiple conference choices for the entire staff and lay leadership team of a local church.

The worship time for July 24-26 will be led by Randy Millwood, professor at New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans.

The July 31-Aug 2 worship will be led by Alan Nix, director of missions for Jones Association.

A Church Media Library track is also part of the curricu-

lum for the July 24-26 weekend.

For reservation information, contact Frank Simmons, Manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299; or telephone (601) 452-7261.

For specific information on either conference, contact the MBCB Sunday School or Discipleship Training Departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE



Garaywa campers fulfill long-held dream

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

On April 2, 1947, the dream of Edwina Robinson, longtime executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), became reality as Camp Garaywa was born in Clinton.

It was the dream of "Miss Ed" to have a permanent camping facility where children could come in the atmosphere of the outdoors to learn of the God who created the world — and of the mission he calls all Christians to fulfill.

Fifty years later, Camp Garaywa is still pointing children toward God and toward specific involvement in missions.

This summer, the girls who attend camp there are a part of missions in at least three different ways, according to Jan Cossitt, WMU consultant.

The mission offering taken during the eight weeks of camp is designated toward two mission projects.

One-half of the offering will go to help deliver child care supplies in flood-ravaged areas of North Dakota. The other half is dedicated to paying for corrective eye surgery for the daughter of a Venezuelan pastor.

Two-year-old Syrelis de Rivas was born with a severe cross-eyed condition, according to Cossitt. She is the daughter of Venezuelan pastor Samuel Rivas of Maracaibo, Venezuela.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention is currently in partnership with Venezuelan Baptists.

Missionaries Harold and Pam Strickland brought the child to Cossitt's attention on a recent mission trip to Venezuela.

Corrective surgery for Syrelis would cost over \$15,000 in the United States, but only \$1,500 in Venezuela, Cossitt said.

A picture of Syrelis and her family is posted on the wall in one of the classrooms at Camp Garaywa. With only five of eight weeks of camp completed, the girls have already given enough to pay for the surgery.

Each Friday, camp director Juanita West reminds the girls of the purpose of the mission offering.

"I ask them to pray right then what God would have them give," West said. The

girls can choose to give to the mission offering or spend their money at the camp trading post.

Cossitt anticipates a record mission offering of over \$5,000 by the end of the eighth week of camp.

A third mission project is part of the daily work of the campers, according to West, who is in her second year as director.

Each girl is making cloth booklets with pictures and messages drawn by the campers. The booklets will be delivered to Karen Gray, Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil involved in a ministry to children with AIDS, West said.

Missionaries-in-residence Laura and Phil Dunaway gave the campers Portuguese words to use on the booklets.

The campers drew pictures and copied the words onto square pieces of material, which are gathered into booklets using metal rings.

Laura Gray is a native of Quitman and comes from Pine Grove Church. Her mother, Hazel Burns, is a member there.

Several of the girls in camp during the week of July 7 - 11 were from Pine Grove Church and were able to participate in the mission project.

"We are sending these to a missionary who comes from our church," said Emily

Daniels of Quitman. "Maybe they (the children) will come to know Christ."

"I'm going to tell Mrs. Burns that we are making booklets to send to Karen in Brazil," said Marcy Hutto, also of Quitman.

"I hope it makes them (the children) happy when they look at the books," Emily added.

"If they don't believe in God, they can accept him and go right to heaven," said Sarah Hankins of Clinton.

"That's why we are doing the books," Barbara Laughin of Shabuta added, "to help them learn more about Jesus and God."

Fifty years ago at the dedication of Camp Garaywa a responsive reading was read, entitled "Marking the Hours for the Master," by Mrs. Charles Dean of Jackson. The final part of the response states:

*May it be a memorial to the children forever—
Turning their hearts to God
Their eyes to the need
Their hands to the gift
And themselves to the going!*

Fifty years later, the children are still coming to Camp Garaywa, and their hearts are being turned towards God, "their eyes to the need, their hands to the gift, and themselves to the going."



FOR THE CHILDREN — Among Garaywa campers working on cloth booklets for use by Brazilian children stricken with AIDS are (from left) Marcy Hutto and Emily Daniels, both members of Pine Grove Church, Quitman; and Ashley Edmondson, member of First Church, Vardaman. (Photo by Carl M. White)

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Colorado partnership needs

Bicentennial Church, Fruita, is seeking a church or association with which to partner. Goals are to revitalize an older congregation, increase evangelism activities, and build other ministries.

Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, Greeley, is seeking a partner to help secure a building.

For more information on the above items, contact Bill Hardy, Mississippi Baptist Partnership Missions Coordinator, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Immanuel Church in Royal Gorge Association, Colorado, is in need of 12 pews, 12 feet in length, according to Jim Didlake of the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department. They would prefer padded, but would take either. Contact Ray Hodges at (601) 694-2160 for more information.

Top religious groups in the world

1. Roman Catholic Church	60.2 million
2. Southern Baptist Convention	15.6 million
3. United Methodist Church	8.5 million
4. National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.	8.2 million
5. Church of God in Christ	5.5 million
6. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	5.1 million
7. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	4.7 million
8. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	3.7 million
9. National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.	3.5 million
10. African Methodist Episcopal Church	3.5 million
11. Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	2.6 million
12. Episcopal Church	2.5 million
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.	2.5 million
National Missionary Baptist Convention of America	2.5 million

Source: 1997 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches

Brazilian youth 'free' after Gulfshore baptism

By Chad Polk
Gulfshore Assembly Intern

It was a special day in the life of an exchange student and many other witnessing youth as Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian experienced its first baptismal service in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Marcelo Bettarello, a 17-year-old from Franca, Brazil, attended the first of six Youth Weeks at Gulfshore, with no idea his life was about to change.

"I thought I wouldn't like it," said Bettarello. "I was afraid to accept it at first... I don't know why."

After a week of learning how to live life "to the extreme," the theme for the sessions, Bettarello sat down and went through the plan of salvation with his family group leader, Emily Pate of Montpelier.

"Throughout the week I became burdened for Marcelo and saw how he was seeking to know more about God," said Pate. "By the end of the week, I could tell God was convicting his heart."

The same day Bettarello made his commitment to Christ, he was baptized by Tommy Whaley, pastor of his home church, Bigbee Church in Amory.

"It was an exciting moment for us all," said Whaley. "Youth from different towns and faculty all stood out on the beach to support Marcelo."

"It was a wonderful sight to see so many singing 'Amazing Grace' just minutes before he stepped into the water."

Bettarello recognized his youth director, Scott Carter, for the role he has played in sharing Christ.

"Scott dealt with sports because he knew it caught my interest," said Bettarello.

"He showed me that sports can be fun and that you'll be better off if you believe in God and have faith in what he can do," he said.

According to his host family in Nettleton, Bettarello is an outstanding athlete. In fact, he is probably a phenomenon.

"Marcelo picked up a football for the first time last August when he moved in, and began starting for the varsity football team two weeks later as a kicker," said Glenda Jones, his host mother.

"He not only played football at Nettleton High, but he was involved in the basketball, track, and tennis teams," she said.

Bettarello's plans are to go



BORN AGAIN — Marcelo Bettarello (right) of Franca, Brazil, is baptized by Tommy Whaley, pastor of Bigbee Church, Amory, in the salty waters of the Gulf of Mexico just off the beach behind Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian. Bettarello accepted Christ during a recent Youth Week at Gulfshore Assembly. (Photo by Chad Polk)

back to Brazil this month in order to graduate from high school in December.

His long term goal is to become a lawyer.

"I'll be back in the States this January to attend college," said Bettarello. "I am looking at Mississippi State or Belhaven College. I really want to play soccer or football somewhere."

Although it's hard to say good-bye to Bettarello, his host family realizes that after this

special day, they can look forward to seeing him again.

"This is a memorable day for us because we know Marcelo will be with us later in Heaven," said Glenda and her husband Jerry.

As for Bettarello, a new life has just begun.

"After being raised from the water, I had a feeling that I've never felt before," he said. "It's the feeling of knowing that I am now free."

Yearbook places Southern Baptists in 2nd slot

NEW YORK (ABP) — Denominations in the United States generally experienced either modest growth or decline last year, according to the 1997 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.

"Denominations like the Southern Baptist Convention which have experienced growth over the last decade continued to grow. However, they grew at a more modest rate than in many past years," wrote editors of the annual compilation of statistical data by the National Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

"Denominations like the United Methodist Church who

Overall, U.S. church membership increased by about a quarter-million members. Most of that growth was accounted for by three groups: Mormons, Catholics, and Southern Baptists.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints grew more than any other religious group last year, registering a membership increase of 98,400, or 2.39%.

Mormons comprise the seventh-largest faith group in the U.S., with 4.7 million members.

The Roman Catholic Church showed the second-highest numerical increase, with membership up by 89,849 (.15%).

The Southern Baptist Convention was third, growing by 49,236 members, a percentage change of .32%.

Other groups reporting significant growth are the Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.), up 4.25%; Assemblies of God, 1.7%; Jehovah's Witnesses, 2.14%; Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2%; American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., 0.63%; International Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4.68%; and the Presbyterian Church in America, 3%.

More than half of America's church membership is in the three largest denominations: The Roman Catholic Church, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the United Methodist Church.

The 30 largest faith groups comprise 95% of the total church membership.

An estimated 151 million U.S. adults, or 86.2% of the

population, belong to Christian faith groups, the Yearbook reported.

The estimated adult Jewish population is 3.1 million, or 1.8% of the population.

Muslim/Islamic adults number 527,000, or 0.3%. Unitarian Universalists number 502,000. Buddhists number 401,000 and Hindus 227,000.

Among groups with the

largest membership declines were conservative groups like the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which lost nearly 5,000 members — less than 1% of total membership; the Pentecostal Church of God, which dropped nearly 7%; the Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church, Inc., and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Second ITF leader resigns to take high NAMB post

ATLANTA (ABP) — The second man to serve as chairman of the Implementation Task Force (ITF) which oversaw restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention has — like the first — landed an upper-level job with the new North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Bob Reccord, the Virginia pastor who initially was ITF chairman, was elected NAMB president June 19.

He had stepped down as ITF chairman in March after his nomination for the top paid staff position was announced.

Now Reccord's successor as ITF chairman, John Yarbrough, also has been hired as an upper-level administrator at NAMB. Yarbrough has resigned as pastor of First Church, Perry, Ga., to become lead strategy coordinator at the new agency.

Yarbrough is a Georgia native who has been pastor of churches in Georgia and Kentucky.

He is a graduate of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and is past president of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

He is one of only a few outsiders yet named to staff positions at NAMB.

The vast majority of management-level staff members identified to date held previous positions with one of the three agencies merged to form NAMB — the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, the Radio & Television Commission in Fort Worth, and the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

Only five of the 107 management-level staff members announced by NAMB July 9 have come from positions outside the three agencies.

NIV report sparks professional argument

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A momentous day in religious journalism looms ahead.

On July 22 in Chicago, the Evangelical Press Association's six-member board of directors will review a committee report siding with allegations that one of the EPA's 287 member publications violated the association's code of ethics.

The publication at issue, meanwhile, has appealed to the EPA board of directors to decide, first, whether it has told the truth in its reporting.

The parties to the dispute have become familiar names in both the religious and secular media in recent months:

◆ "World" magazine, which broke the news to the evangelical "world" in March that a "feminist," gender-neutral revision of the New International Version (NIV) Bible translation was under way.

The NIV, which accounts for 45% of all Bibles sold in the United States, quickly became the center of a firestorm in the evangelical community.

◆ Zondervan Publishing House, the NIV's U.S. publisher, and the International Bible Society (IBS), the NIV's copyright holder, which called a halt to the NIV revision in late May, but also filed separate, multi-page complaints with the Evangelical Press Association alleging that World's reporting violated the EPA's code of ethics.

Also cited in World's reporting was the Committee on Bible Translation (CBT), a 15-member group of scholars with authority over the NIV translation.

Adding to the drama: "World's" publisher, Joel Belz, is the association's outgoing EPA president.

The ethics committee, in a

three-page report July 1 siding with Zondervan and IBS, said in reviewing two key articles by World on the controversy it had found "unwarranted inferences attributed to Zondervan and the CBT, and faulty conclusions which do not follow from the data presented."

"None of us on the ad hoc committee believe 'World' has proven its case in point; on the contrary, their view is substantially weakened by their resorting to tactics that would be unacceptable to most other EPA editors and editorial boards."

"We believe 'World' has every right and reason to open discussion on important issues related to Bible translation and urge 'World' to publish a full account, with equal prominence, of the position taken by Zondervan and IBS in the inter-

ests of the public that "World" purports to serve," the committee stated.

Belz, in a letter of response to the EPA's board of directors, contended: "... no one should make this task harder than it really is. The place to start is with the simple question: 'Who is telling the truth?'"

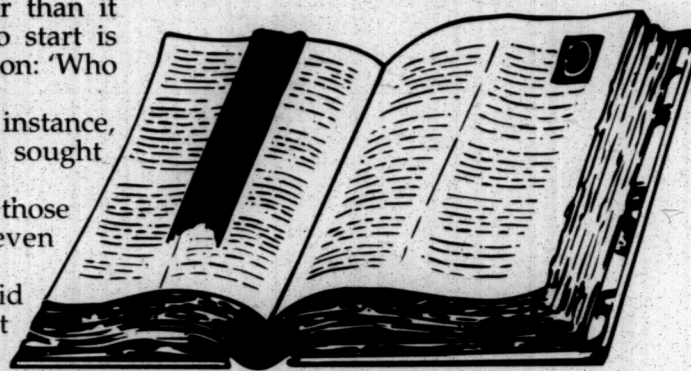
Belz wrote: "In this instance, powerful voices have sought to silence the truth."

"EPA dare not give those voices comfort or, even worse, join them."

The committee said "World's" prominent linking of Zondervan Publishing House and a 'feminist seduction,' in view of "World's" failure to contact Zondervan for comment or explanation, is inexcusable.

"Poor writing is a deeply

troublesome aspect of these articles. The use of terms such as 'feminist seduction,' 'unisex language' and 'stealth Bible' detract from a reasoned discussion of an important issue. The



committee agrees that the more serious a charge or accusation a journalist makes, the more care and restraint the journalist needs to take in exploring it."

Youths organize Lumberton crusade

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communication Director

A church youth group inspired to share the message of Christ with their community organized, raised funding, and carried out a June 12 youth crusade in Lumberton.

Although the hoped-for 2,000 attendees did not appear, those who did — between 300 and 400 — were treated to a plain, clear exposition of the gospel from two evangelists, and to two contemporary Christian bands who praised Jesus with their music.

Daryl Covington, adult leader of the group, and a former area pastor, had taken the six young people to an evangelistic event last year at Gatlinburg which featured Ike

Reighard, pastor of North Star Baptist Church in Kennesaw, Ga.; Jay Strack, youth evangelist from Orlando; and the Christian bands "According to John," and "Riley and Ward," both from metro Atlanta.

The youths, enroute back to South Mississippi, decided to invite both evangelists and both bands.

Both preachers and both music groups had only one day free all this summer — July 12.

The youth group organized themselves, calling the project "No Shame Ministries," and then set about raising \$7,000 for expenses.

They obtained use of the Lumberton High School football stadium, and got a mix of paid and free advertising on local television and radio stations.

Admission to the event was canned goods. A concession stand and pizza wagon were operated by a local group raising money to build a home for abused and neglected children.

Baptist-affiliated William Carey College in Hattiesburg had a recruiter on hand.

A covered speaker's stand was set up on the field and tents were erected for counseling.

It was hot — about 100 degrees — so hot that many could not sit for long in the sun without umbrellas.

It was so hot that the group asked permission of the owners of a nearby youth recreation center to move inside for the second message by Jay Strack.

Only about 100 people heard Strack's message of salvation, but at least eight responded to the invitation, some for rededication, some for profession of faith.

Total decisions, according to Covington, were 23, with six professions of faith, two for full time Christian service, and the rest rededications.

Trinity Church, Lumberton, covered the event with their insurance.

The youths said they were going to try to incorporate the "No Shame Ministries" name and plan for another crusade next year.

The group consists of Amanda Rankin, 18; Robert Zehentner, 16; Melissa Robbins, 17; Jamie Singley, 16; Adam Disbrow, 15; and Cindy Rankin, 18.



"We fully believe that if you're going to talk the talk, you have to walk the walk, too," said Robbins.

Reighard said he has invited the youth group to Atlanta in August for a special Christian event at Six Flags featuring the Christian singer Carmen.

As speaker at the 1997 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference Dec. 29-30 at Mississippi College in Clinton, Reighard said he plans to use them as a sermon illustration.

Said Strack of the group's efforts: "A handful of students decided to take what they've been hearing in sermons and Sunday School for a long time to heart: 'We can make a difference.'"

CRUSADING — Lumberton-area students who conceived and carried out the idea for a local crusade through their own "No Shame Ministries" are (from left) Amanda Rankin, Robert Zehentner; Melissa Robbins, Jamie Singley, and Adam Disbrow. The only member of the team not present for the crusade was Cindy Rankin, who was serving as a camp counselor in Kentucky. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

◆ MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT UNION ◆ SUMMER MISSIONARY TESTIMONIES

DON STEWART

Ohio — 1955, William Carey
Director, Doctor of Ministry Program
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary



The year of 1955 was an eventful one in my life. Two major events occurred that summer. I was chosen to represent the Mississippi BSU as a summer missionary in

the Ohio Baptist Convention, spending 10 weeks in Northeast Ohio and Southwestern Pennsylvania. The other event was my marriage to Mona Daughdrill one week after arriving back in Hattiesburg from the summer of service. Mona, who had been a summer missionary in Arkansas the year before, and I decided that the positive impact on my life, our marriage, and our future in Christian ministry would be worth the ten weeks of separation. We have concluded many times since that the decision we made, though hard at the time, was the right one. There is no way I could put a value to what one might arguably call the greatest summer of my life.



Lee finds Habitat homebuilding rewarding

By Teresa Dickens
SBC Woman's Missionary Union

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (BP) — "Are you afraid of heights?"

A "no" answer to that question made Wanda Lee of Columbus, Ga., a roofer on her first day as a Habitat for Humanity volunteer, but her experience is not really an uncommon one for a Habitat volunteer.

Willingness is valued more highly than skill.

Lee, president of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), was among 2,400 volunteers who participated in the 13th annual Jimmy Carter Work Project with Habitat for Humanity International.

The project resulted in the building of 50 new homes in seven Appalachian communities throughout rural Kentucky and Tennessee.

Lee's involvement in the June 15-21 "Hammering in the Hills" project was in connection with WMU's signing of an agreement with Habitat to build nine houses in 1998 and 1999.

Lee, who did not join the project until June 18 because of other responsibilities, shared the week-long responsibility with Delane Tew, coordinator of WMU's Volunteer Connection.

Acknowledging the work left her exhausted each day, Lee said it was an experience she will not soon forget nor wait long to repeat — she will work on a Habitat project co-sponsored by her church, First Church, Columbus, July 7-16.



HOT WORK — Volunteers take a break from their hot jobs at the Habitat for Humanity house in Pikeville, Ky. Painting interior walls became national WMU president Wanda Lee's assignment after a rainstorm drove her off the roof of the new home. Lee, a member of First Church, Columbus, Ga., was impressed with what the teamwork of a group of women could produce in only four days. (WMU photo by Teresa Dickens)

"It is very hard to put into words what this project did for me," said Lee, a registered nurse.

"I learned new skills. I gained a deep satisfaction in living out my faith in such a tangible way. And I was humbled to work alongside the new homeowner and realize

that I had had a part in making a lifelong dream come true."

"It also follows the example of Jesus," she continued.

"He told us that when we minister 'to one of the least of these you have done it to me.'"

International students, MKs call Glorieta home

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — A summer home for some may signify a wealthy lifestyle that includes a convenience-filled getaway. But for seven mission-

loved it," Elisa said.

An employee in the Chuckwagon, Glorieta's snack bar, Elisa worked in the dining hall her first summer washing

the auditorium, "especially music week. It is awesome."

Elisa's international peers were already away from home when summer began, and home is too far away to visit.

Laura Gaddis is the daughter of Linda and William Gaddis Jr., missionaries to Maylasia. She works in housekeeping at Glorieta, cleaning guest rooms until she begins classes this fall at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, Texas.

"I needed something to do and a place to live," she said. "It's a lot like summer camp except everyone is working. It's fun."

Mike Stone, whose parents Sandy and Keith Stone are missionaries to Brazil, will start studies at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., this fall.

He came to Glorieta to work in food service washing dishes because he felt it was better than the other work offer he had doing landscaping. "I enjoy doing the work," he said.

Olya Poverennova is not a missionary kid, but she is the product of mission work. She left her home in Crimea, Ukraine, after she and her family accepted Christ when a missionary witnessed to them.

Formerly an atheist, Olya now wants to become a missionary, perhaps among her own people. A student at Jacksonville (Ala.) State University in commercial design, she lives with a host family, Marguerite and

Charles Chambers of Blountsville, Ala. At Glorieta, Olya is a housekeeper who laughs when she says she has learned "you can make cleaning toilets fun."

"At Glorieta there is time for me to relax and have time with God. I enjoy the people and their attitude. I'd like to come back next year."

Erin Sheriff, also a housekeeper, arrived at Glorieta from her home in Indonesia as a transition from MK to her freshman year at Ouachita Baptist University beginning this fall.

Her parents, Lucy and Paul Sheriff, felt the experience would be good after having spent high school in a class of 13 students.

"I like it a lot," Erin declared, "even though there are a lot of people. Everybody wants to know everybody else."

For much of its 45-year history, Glorieta has hired students to fill summer positions. Staffers, as they are called, used to earn \$5 a week, plus room and board. Today the conference center provides \$5.35 an hour. For an average 40-hour week, students earn \$214, from which \$46 is deducted for a room, clean linens and 10 meals.

Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center also uses student employees during summers.

To explore summer employment opportunities, contact Glorieta at P.O. Box 8, Glorieta, NM 87535 or Ridgecrest at P.O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770.



INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT — Missionary kids and international students working as summer employees at Glorieta Assembly include: (from left) Mike Stone, Brazil; Laura Gaddis, Maylasia; Tamara Grayson, South Africa; Olya Poverennova, Ukraine; Erin Sheriff, Indonesia; and Elisa Johnson, Canada. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

ary kids and international students at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center, a summer home is shared housing, hard work, and a lot of friendship.

Elisa Johnson is the daughter of Laura and Paul Johnson of Vancouver. Her father is pastor of Royal Heights Church, and both the elder Johnsons "were summer employees at Glorieta about 30 years ago, and they

dishes, a task she recalled as "gross." She enjoyed her friends, keeping up with approximately 30 of them by electronic mail during the winter.

Many are back this year. Elisa will return to Douglas College in New Westminster, near Vancouver, this fall to pursue general studies.

In her free time at Glorieta, she likes to go to worship services in

Mississippi sisters retiring from missions

By Julie McGowan
International Mission Board

About 50 years ago, the Green sisters spent summer days making mud pies together in Mississippi. On June 1 during a special emeritus service in Richmond, Va., Lou Ann Lee, 62, and Helen Myers, 60, celebrated retirement from International Mission Board missionary service.



Lee

The siblings, with their husbands, Hal Lee Jr. and S. Payton Myers, served a combined 69 years on two continents — Europe and Africa — in a variety of tasks but with one mission: to share their faith in Jesus Christ.



Myers

As children of a Baptist pastor, the girls stayed actively involved in Sunbeams, Girls' Auxiliary, church choir, Sunday School, Training Union, and other church events.

Growing up in Prentiss, Poplarville, and Pascagoula, the two also shared many of the same interests, including basketball and piano. When their college years arrived, both followed a family tradition of attending Mississippi College (MC).

While their childhood years closely resembled one another, after college the Green sisters followed paths that eventually would lead to very different global destinations.

At MC, Lou Ann met Hal Lee Jr. After graduation, she accept-

ed a position teaching mathematics in Adams City, Colo. Hal entered Southern Seminary in Louisville. In 1955, before they were married, he called Lou Ann and told her he felt led by God to international missions.

"I was willing to go, but had no sense of call," Lou Ann remembered. On Aug. 5, 1955, they were married by Lou Ann's father.

Hal served as pastor of Glensboro Church near Lawrenceburg, Ky., and then as pastor of Vancleave Church, Vancleave (Miss.).

While Lou Ann was not sure of her call specifically as a missionary, she was certain that God places a very important call on each person's life. It was during the 1958 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions that her direction changed. After prayer, thought, and soul-searching, she distinctly felt the Lord leading her to overseas service. She noted that Hal was very instrumental in her call.

The couple have four children: Daniel, who lives in Alexandria, Va.; Peter, who lives in Brandon; Elizabeth Lee Herman, who lives in New York City; and Matthew, who lives in Hattiesburg.

Helen started attending MC in 1954. The summer after her freshman year, she served on staff of Glorieta Baptist Assembly near Santa Fe, N.M. There, she first admitted to herself that God might have some special work for her.

Returning to MC, Helen dated Payton Myers. They were engaged just after Christmas 1956, and were married July 25, 1957, by Helen's father.

Thereafter, Payton served as pastor of Oak Grove Church, Oak Grove; Mt. Zion Church, Wayne County; Braxton Church; and Siloam Church, West Point.

After marriage, Helen completed her college education. In Wayne County Payton first felt the Lord might be calling him into missionary service. The fall of 1960, attending a Women's



SISTERS IN CHRIST — Retired Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries Lou Ann Lee (left) and Helen Myers enjoy visiting after a special recognition service June 1 at Bethany Place Church in Richmond, Va. The service honored 65 retiring overseas missionaries. (IMB Photo by Sandy King)

Missionary Union meeting, Helen, too, felt called.

Payton and Helen were appointed in June 1963, as missionaries to Kaduna, Nigeria. They also lived in Ibadan, where she was a church and home worker, and in Jos, where they were houseparents for children of missionaries attending a boarding school. From 1969-1987, she was a teacher and director of the preschool department at the Baptist Pastor's School in Kaduna, where Payton worked.

As a housewife in Nigeria, Helen learned to manage water shortages and power outages. She had to cook the dog's food each day. She never used an air conditioner, and she owned a telephone only one or two of her first 25 years there.

The Myerses now have three grown children and six grandchildren. Their children are David, who lives in Hattiesburg; Allan, who lives in Lafayette, La.; and Amy Lu Waide, who lives in West Point. Allan and his wife, Sue Ellen, were appointed in 1993 as FMB missionaries to Nigeria. He now serves as pastor of Calvary Church in Lafayette.

Since 1988, Helen served in church and home work in Zaria, Nigeria, assisting Payton. She also assisted new missionaries who went to Zaria to study the Hausa language. The couple retired in May to West Point.

Lou Ann and Helen both plan to return to college. Lou Ann would like to prepare for some job that would allow her to "be salt" in Mississippi. Helen is try-

ing to become computer literate and might seek to teach again.

Living on different continents, the sisters did not have many opportunities to visit one another.

Now back in Mississippi, Lou Ann and Helen plan to get together more often with each other and with their sisters, Emily Bishop in Forrest Grove, Ore., and Mary Alice Edwards in Marianne, Ga.

Southern 'notation' lifted

Southern Seminary's primary accrediting agency has notified the Southern Baptist school in Louisville, Ky., that an accreditation "notation" has been removed on the recommendation of a commission that included a Mississippi seminary president.

Luder G. Whitlock, president of Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, was a member of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Commission on Accrediting that voted to remove the notation during a June meeting in Philadelphia, Pa.

"It is apparent that formal and informal structures and processes have been established to improve communication and understanding..." the commission's report noted, including improvements in:

- ◆ Academic freedom.
- ◆ Status of contract and tenure-track faculty.
- ◆ Shared governance.
- ◆ Communication among the board of trustees, seminary administration, and faculty.

The notation was imposed in January 1996 after an ATS visit to the campus the previous November to review complaints reported to ATS as new president R. Albert Mohler, Jr., and the school's trustees began to move the seminary in a decidedly conservative direction.

The notation described the ATS concern as, "General tone of school impairs the capacity to provide significant theological education and ministerial training."

In lifting the notation, ATS directed the seminary to make the just-released report available to faculty and school trustees. Mississippians serving as Southern Seminary trustees include:

- ◆ Thomas M. Atwood, pastor of First Church, Oxford.
- ◆ Odean W. Puckett, retired pastor of First Church, Natchez.
- ◆ J.D. Cutrer, retired businessman and member of First Church, Baldwin.

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VBS '97 brings 'stampede' of good reports



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A "stampede" of good news about Southern Baptist Vacation Bible School (VBS) is coming in from around the country.

Taking advantage of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) VBS theme for 1997 — "The Wild and Wonderful Good News Stampede" — churches are using horse-riding cowboy pastors, pony rides, petting zoos, and even a full-fledged rodeo to interest children in the gospel.

The western theme and renewed focus on evangelism are apparently paying off. Consider these examples:

◆ Metro Association in Jackson (Miss.), is going all out to promote VBS this summer. According to Larry Garner, director of church services, the association trained 280 workers, built 10 "Western Town" sets for churches to use during their Bible schools and even got an area farmer to donate 20 bales of hay.

"One of our pastors (Richard Powell of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson) rode a horse into his church sanctuary. They were planning to renovate it in July, though, or he probably wouldn't have gotten away with it," Garner joked.

Oak Forest Church, also in

Jackson, combined adult seminars on topics such as time management, parenting, and financial planning along with VBS classes for kids.

Garner said churches in his association "have really been using VBS effectively this year to penetrate their communities for Christ, especially in transitional neighborhoods. VBS is one of the greatest tools for evangelism that we have. It's non-threatening because it centers on the child, upon whom we all can agree."

In Mississippi, Garner said three out of every seven conversions in Southern Baptist churches occur as a result of VBS.

"What we ought to do is quit having revivals and start having three weeks of VBS!" he said.

◆ Chris Hawks, minister of outreach and singles at North Kannapolis Church,

Kannapolis, N.C., came up with a unique way to promote VBS at his church — hold a rodeo recognized and sanctioned by a local rodeo association. It took about six months to clear and prepare an eight-and-a-half-acre lot next to the church for the June 13-14 event. Approximately 2,400 people attended "The Good News Stampede Rodeo" which fea-

tured constant promotions for the church's upcoming VBS.

◆ Prestonwood Church, Dallas, enrolled 3,203 children in VBS this summer, its largest Bible school in 10 years, according to senior preschool-children's minister Sandra Saunders. Only half of those attending were from Prestonwood, 23% were from surrounding churches and about 22% were unchurched. Ninety-four professions of faith were reported along with 22 rededications during the week.

◆ John Little, minister of music at Cornerstone Southern Baptist Church, Lamar, Mo., said he knew this year's VBS was different "when I heard how loud the kids were singing the worship songs."

"We are a church that runs about 90 in Sunday School. We had an average of 67 children each night (in Bible school), and six of them were saved during VBS," Little said.

A special feature of Cornerstone's VBS was the missions offering collected during the week.

"We used boots to collect the money and we made a contest between the boys and the girls. The group that collected the most would get to put a pie in the face of our pastor. The kids got into it so much we had to add people for them to throw pies at. By the end of the week we had collected \$451.81."

◆ First Church, Carrollton, Texas, reported 1,250 children enrolled and 72 professions of faith at its June 16-20 VBS.



STAMPEDE TO VBS — The Wentworth family was among those who beat a trail to the June 16-20 Vacation Bible School at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson: Taylor (top left), mom Dianne Wentworth (top right), Elissa (bottom left), and Diane Wentworth (bottom right). Diane Wentworth is preschool director at the church. (BR special photo)

"We've always had a good experience with VBS, but this year's was really awesome," minister of childhood education Kristi Wilson said. "Our teachers keep going on and on about it."

"The theme was great because it was so easy to work with. We rented western costumes, had a fiberglass 'Trigger' on stage and used a cowboy band with a steel guitar, banjo, and drums during our worship rally. We even had a petting zoo with farm animals."

"About the only problem I can see for the Sunday School Board now is, 'How is it going to top this next year?'"

58,000 VBS kids accept Christ

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Vacation Bible School (VBS) in Southern Baptist churches in 1996 attracted almost 5.2 million people and resulted in more than 53,000 professions of faith in Christ, according to statistics recently released by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

According to the Annual Church Profile, 28,431 churches reported conducting VBS last year with a total attendance of 5,197,874. That's up slightly from the 1995 total of 28,196 churches and 5,145,854 enrolled.

According to Becky Martin, VBS consultant for the board, 15,350 churches also mailed in more detailed VBS reports for 1996. According to these records, 53,379 people accepted Christ and 450,767 Sunday School prospects were discovered during last year's Bible schools. Those numbers are down slightly from the 1995 totals of 54,067 professions of faith and 485,862 prospect discoveries.

However, Martin said the actual numbers of decisions and prospect discoveries were likely "significantly higher" since many

churches did not return their VBS reports. Using the VBS enrollment for 1996 from the Annual Church Profile, the BSSB estimated the number of professions of faith in last summer's Bible schools totaled 57,008 with 734,750 prospect discoveries.

"It's important to note that 80% of the baptisms that Southern Baptists report come during the VBS experience," Martin said. "That shows VBS continues to be a vital tool in reaching people for the Lord."

Martin is urging churches to turn in their VBS reports for 1997 so the BSSB can continue to monitor the impact Bible schools are making across the country.

In other statistics from the '96 VBS report:

◆ 2,104 people made decisions for church-related vocations.

◆ 41,957 students were enrolled in Sunday School through the VBS transfer plan.

◆ 56% of Bible schools were held at night, 38% in the morning, 2% in the afternoon, and 4% were a combination of times.

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Analysis: VBS brimming with opportunities

By Larry Garner
Metro Association

Children are special to Jesus. Luke records that parents brought their children to him that he might simply touch them—People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them.

Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Lk. 18:15-16)

Every church, whether large or small, can stress the importance of children with Vacation Bible School (VBS).

The average VBS in Mississippi enrolls 105, has an attendance of 87, and accounts for 43% of the conversions in Mississippi in a year's time—that's 3 of every 7 professions of faith. On average 21 prospects are discovered for every VBS conducted in the state.

VBS offers any church one of the best opportunities to bridge into its community with ministry and witness. Both those in the church and those in the community agree on the value of children—the primary focus for VBS.

While some parents might not be open to a direct witness or even an invitation to attend church, they are open to their children attending VBS.

Recently I helped a friend pour some concrete. Occasionally a leaf would fall on the freshly poured concrete. As I finished the concrete, leaves had to be

picked from the surface. In the early stages before the concrete hardened, just the weight of a leaf would have left an impression, but once the concrete hardened, it would take a jackhammer to remove the image left by only the weight of a leaf.

This provides a parable: while children are still impressionable, we need to touch them with the things of God. If impressed early, the image will remain for a lifetime.

Nira Grace helped make a lasting impression. The dust would boil behind her old pickup. She put her truck on the country roads every summer picking up children for VBS.

She lived before Ralph Nader and seat belts, so she'd pack the front seat, the truck bed—anywhere she could put children for VBS.

If you lined the kids up and tried to choose the one most likely to succeed, you would not have chosen little Larry. Slight of build—just another little country boy in overalls. God looks at things differently than we. Often the ones we would reject, God chooses.

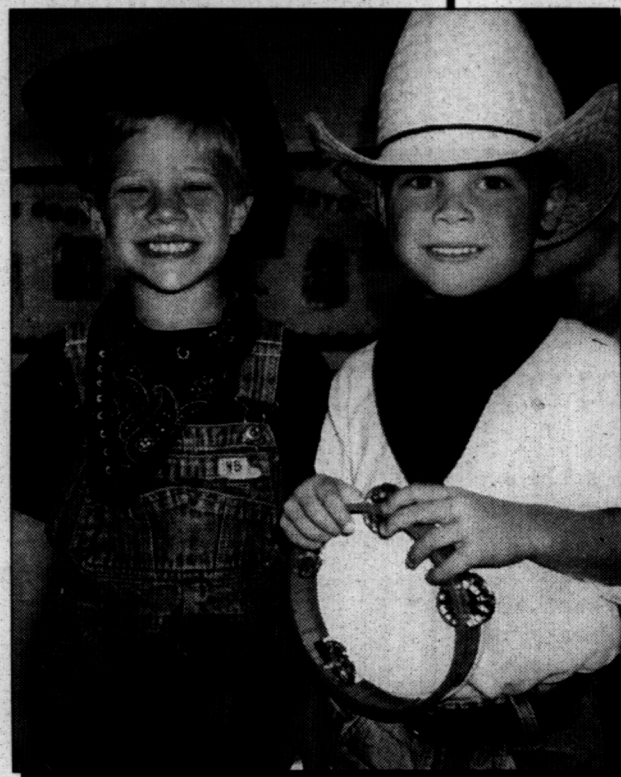
Little Larry gave his heart and life to Jesus as a result of VBS. Miss Nira didn't know she was picking up a future leader of southern Baptists. She was just picking up a little tow-headed boy who needed Jesus—a little boy named Larry Lewis, for the past ten years, president of the Home Mission Board responsible for directing the work of thousands of missionaries across America.

The keys of the kingdom might simply fit a Ford or a Chevy. God will use anything in his work—but what he needs most of all is a willing heart. Nira Grace had one and it made the difference in the life of a little boy named Larry and the hundreds of thousands of lives touched by his ministry.

This summer we have a great opportunity to touch the lives of boys and girls for Christ.

Only God knows the good that can come from simply giving a child a ride to VBS.

Why do VBS? Because children are at that impressionable stage—and we want to leave a Godly impression—one that will last through eternity.



ROUND 'EM UP — Cowpokes attending the June 16-20 Vacation Bible School at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, included Josh Crowder (left) and Wilson Crockett. (BR special photo)

Student workers evacuate Cambodia

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP)—Thirty Southern Baptist summer workers fled an intense street war in Cambodia July 9 and were to catch a commercial flight from Bangkok, Thailand, to Los Angeles July 11.

The summer workers, students at universities in the

United States who had planned to teach conversational English in Phnom Penh, were able to catch the first Red Cross flight out of Cambodia. They are to return to their homes and are not expected to go back into Cambodia.

With the student workers came four families assigned to the Southern Baptist organization Cooperative Services International (CSI), which organized the English teaching jobs.

Another CSI family, living outside of Phnom Penh, were

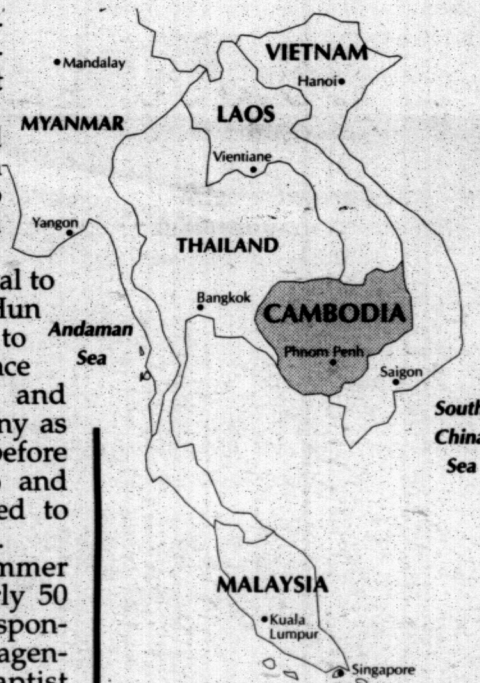
not expected to get out of the country until July 11.

Nearly half of the summer workers were students of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee.

Weeks of tension and occasional clashes in Phnom Penh erupted into a full-scale mortar and rocket battle July 5.

The next day troops loyal to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen drove out forces loyal to First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh and sealed the capital. As many as 150 people were killed before fighting subsided July 6 and Hun Sen's soldiers turned to looting, news reports said.

Several hundred summer workers assigned to nearly 50 nations this summer are sponsored jointly by various agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

CURRICULUM EXPLAINED

Editor:

I read with great interest the letter to the editor in the May 22 issue entitled "Slow Down SS Lessons." Since the writer's concerns were with the Explore the Bible Series that the Sunday School Board produces I would like to share some information that might be helpful to your readers.

The primary purpose of the Explore the Bible Series is to provide in-depth book-by-book study of the whole Bible for adults in Sunday School.

Actually, we have slowed down the old 9-year cycle to devote more time to some important books that need significant study.

The purpose of the recent Old Testament survey was to provide our users with a brief, helpful overview of the whole Old Testament story.

Most of our people have not engaged in this type of study and need to gain the perspective that it can bring.

Any time a group of editors designs such a study they will inevitably leave out a subject that someone feels is most important.

Certainly this is regrettable. However, I hope we have achieved our purpose to some degree.

Be assured that the Explore the Bible production team is working diligently to make it the best book-by-book Bible study that is available today for Sunday Schools.

James D. McLemore
Baptist Sunday School Board
Nashville

N.H. CHURCH NEEDS BUS

Editor:

We are a mission of Mountain View Southern Baptist Church in Lancaster, N.H., 16 miles away over a mountainous road that can be hazardous in winter. About 20 miles from Mountain View is North Country Church.

These three are the only SBC churches in the upper half of New Hampshire. The nearest other one is 70 miles south.

We meet in a reception room rented from a local hotel on Sunday and at the Community Center on Wednesday.

We have eight adult members and four younger members. One adult member does not live in the area and another is away serving in the military.

One couple has a ministry that keeps them on the road most of the year. We have three other adults who attend regularly, but have not committed to membership.

We have 13 children plus two other teens, who need Sunday School teachers.

I started praying for a van; now I am praying for a bus. There is such an opportunity to reach kids here and through prayer and teaching, we may equip them to reach the parents

who don't hear us.

It was during prayer about transportation that I felt the urge to write this letter. I did not write it, but the urge has not gone away. How does God answer prayers? Sometimes in mysterious ways.

Please pray for all these needs. If God leads you to any other action, we give God the glory and would try to use any resources according to his will.

Margaret McCluskey
P O Box 234
Littleton, N.H. 03561

OUT OF BALANCE

Editor:

I just read in "The Baptist Record" that the North American Mission Board (NAMB) is going to save \$34,000,000 over 5 years by down-sizing and re-structuring of the Board.

The salaries are absolutely out of line, and, if at the cost of many jobs sacrificed in order to pay such excessive salaries, we should hang our heads in shame for letting it happen.

I know a person should be paid according to his ability and responsibility, but this is way out of line. Certainly, Larry Lewis did not make that kind of salary and he did an admirable job as president of the Home Mission Board.

When the question was raised by some of the trustees who had no input in setting the salaries, a token amount was rolled back to a little less than \$200,000 a year for the new president. Vice-Presidents would be making \$100,000 to \$150,000 annually. How can this be justified?

(NAMB president) Bob Reccord did not want the salary for himself nor his associates revealed. I would be a little embarrassed and want to keep it quiet myself!

Perhaps we need to rethink our Cooperative Program giving and keep more in Mississippi, as well as raise our Associational giving.

Many pastors and missionaries, who are on the firing line in the ministry, are making great sacrifices in order to support our Cooperative Program giving.

If each of these made \$30-40,000 a year, it would take five years to make the kind of money these executives are making.

Something is out of balance here.

M.C. Johnson
Clarksdale

WONDERFUL STAND

Editor:

What a wonderful stand taken by the Baptist Convention in calling for the boycott of Disney, a name that at one time was synonymous with wholesome family entertainment.

I am totally disgusted with Disney and their affiliates. We must stand together in this time of trial as the total plan of the forces of darkness is to destroy every vestige of the family as God designed it.

I praise God for the opportunity to be a part of this noble effort and have asked my children to do the same within their families to set an example for the precious children they are raising.

Sue Cook
Oxford

MODERN INQUISITION

Editor:

Several years back, before the 1979 Coup of Spiritual Fascism, poisoned the Convention, Southern Baptists were known as a compassion-

ate, tolerant group of Christians seeking to propagate the Gospel of Christ to a depraved world.

We avoided personal condemnation of others believing only God can and should judge.

We extended our love towards homosexuals, prostitutes, and drug addicts, never condoning their behavior, but acknowledging that every sinner is in need of the life-changing power of the Gospel.

We didn't boycott people, places, or things, because we understood that only good people get hurt by such illogical actions.

We allowed seminary professors the freedom to teach without fear of excommunication, and students were given the latitude to dialogue with others without fear of persecution.

Witch hunting, we thought, had faded away due to the dispelling of irrationalism in Christianity. Evidently, we were wrong.

My Lord, what have we become? From my understanding of the Gospels, Christ never condemned one sinner, only those who thought otherwise.

He never boycotted the "Establishment," but he did, out of love, speak against it. And by all accounts, during the last supper, Jesus even washed the feet of Judas, the most notable sinner of all.

From this simple comparison, what right do we have to be called "Christian"?

Sadly enough, it seems that the Southern Baptist Convention has become a spiritual cannibal devouring the souls of the ungodly. And if history is correct, eventually, this 20th century inquisition will turn against and consume itself in the name of God.

Andy Brasher
Como

North Dakota relief project continues

Jan Cossitt (left), consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), and Juanita West, camp director at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, display some of the material given to the recent flood victims of North Dakota.

Items for child care ministry are still needed and are being collected at Camp Garaywa through the end of August. The supplies will be delivered after the first of September.

Mississippi Baptists are asked to donate urgently needed items from the following list:

port-a-cribs
crayons/colors
markers
pull toys
child mats
child monitors
smoke detectors
fire extinguishers
high chairs
wee-sing tapes
car seats
booster seats
potty chairs
strollers
little tyke toys



These may be brought or sent to Camp Garaywa, 310 Camp Garaywa Road, Clinton, MS 39056, or P. O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39056. Persons wishing to make a donation can make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, designated to the North Dakota disaster.

For more information contact the Mississippi WMU, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

DEFEND THE DISABLED

Editor:

I am most grateful for the article on "Caregivers must also take care of selves" (May 8 issue).

My husband was a Baptist pastor for over 30 years. Alzheimer's disease slowly crept its way into his life.

I could no longer meet his needs. No other choice was to be found but to place him in a nursing home.

I thought I was putting him in a place to be the extended arm of the hospital and where his needs would be met.

I found out immediately that this was the nightmare of a lifetime. When complaints were made to the nursing home authorities, it only made things worse for us.

The staff resented my complaints and my husband's needs were neglected even worse.

Out of desperation I alerted the state agency and there was help!

Please don't let our disabled suffer because of neglect. We have laws to protect the sick and handicapped.

Please help to uphold these laws and protect our disabled people by notifying the proper authority or agency when it becomes necessary.

One day we must stand before the Lord and give an account of our actions.

Would you treat the Lord in the same way some of our people are treated in nursing homes?

Matt. 25: 40 says, "As ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it to me."

Be brave and speak out for our precious disabled people, many of whom have given their lives for the cause of Christ.

Keep a vigilant eye on the care they are receiving!

Name withheld

JAKARTA SEEKS MINISTER

Editor:

Jakarta International Baptist Church (JIBC) in Jakarta, Indonesia, is seeking qualified individuals to fill the position of music and youth minister.

JIBC is an English-speaking congregation composed of all nationalities, with Americans being the majority.

Our paid staff consists of a pastor/elder, bilingual Indonesian secretary, and bilingual Indonesian accountant. We share facilities with an Indonesian congregation.

We are seeking the following qualifications:

◆ Vital personal relationship with God.

◆ Heart for ministry and overseas duty with a commitment to longevity.

◆ Masters degree (visa requirement).

◆ Ordained Southern Baptist minister.

◆ Willingness to learn Indonesian language.

Due to international mailing

limitations, interested individuals should submit only resumes to:

Warren C. White
Maxus-SES
P.O. Box 650202
Dallas, TX 75265-0202

The expatriate community in Jakarta is large and ready for harvest. There is much we can do here as a team for our Lord.

Warren C. White
Jakarta, Indonesia

CONSCIENCE STATEMENT

Editor:

The boycott of "The Disney Company" is because of their objectionable entertainment offered under the presumed innocence of the trusted Disney label.

Southern Baptists are people who honor the Judeo-Christian heritage, and are both compassionate and forgiving, loving the sinner while hating the sin.

However that compassion cannot be twisted into a resigned embrace of Disney's anti-Christian films that promote homosexual behavior, lesbianism, sex, and violence, incest, and pornography.

The resolution to refrain from patronizing "the entertainment giant" and any of its subsidiaries is a statement of Christian conscience and deeply held conviction.

Mrs. Juarez Johnson, Sr.
Jackson

SEEKING SENIORS INFO

Editor:

This is an open letter, and an appeal, to all churches in the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

With encouragement from the Family Ministry Department of the (Mississippi Baptist Convention Board), I am attempting to write a history of Senior Adult Ministry within our state. Entitled, "Like a Mighty River," this volume

will include a section on the beginning of organized Senior Adult Ministry within the churches.

I need the following information from all churches which organized Senior Adult Ministry before 1980:

1. Name and address of church and name of association;
2. Date of organization of Club, or ministry;
3. Name of pastor and club officers at time of organization;
4. Name of Senior Adult Club;
5. Names of current officers.

It will be interesting to discover which church in our state had the earliest organization of Senior Adult Ministry.

Please mail your information, as soon as possible, to the following address:

Dr. W. Levon Moore, 200
Golf Course Road, Kosciusko,
MS 39090. Thank you, and may
God bless you!

W. Levon Moore
Kosciusko

WMU to extend CWJC deadline

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) has extended the registration deadline to July 31 for its Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) national training event, set for Aug. 7-9 at WMU's national headquarters in Birmingham.

As of July 11, some 50 spots remained open. Planners have limited the registration to 200 for this first-ever CWJC certification training.

The training begins with registration at 8 a.m. on Aug. 7 and concludes at noon on Aug. 9. Cost is \$155 per person including meals and some local ground transportation. Housing is separate.

To register, contact Johnson at Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283; phone 205-991-4972; or e-mail 70423.355@compuserve.com.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How can there be a God when we have tried our best to raise our children as Christians and things didn't turn out as the Book says?

Sin constantly presses in on us and our children. Even in light of the best parental effort, children sometimes make tragic choices that cause permanent damage. Take heart that God is still at work, both through you and through his church. Pray for your children. Richard Foster, author of "Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Voice," said, "When you feel like your prayers are not getting past the ceiling, just realize that (God) is there at the edge of the ceiling." Parents have no guarantee that things will turn out "like the Book says." What your children do with what you have given them is their choice. Keep in mind that God isn't finished with your children — the last chapter hasn't yet been written. Spiritual growth is a process with many

dips and turns, but staying on the road is the real key to reaching the destination.

When children mess up, it's a reflection on the parents. Right?

Wrong! Jesus surrounded himself with 12 disciples and taught them as best he could, but one of them betrayed him, one of them denied him, and the others ran away. Was their conduct a reflection on their parents? I don't think so. A parent's responsibility is to be actively involved in their children's lives and be a living example of Christ to them. There comes a time when a parent must let go and let God lead, but some children will have to learn the hard way (Luke 15:11-24). Remember, too, that even though Jesus' disciples deserted him, some came to their senses and returned. So it is with children. Train them in the ways they should go (Proverbs 22:6), and even many of the ones who "mess up" will return some day.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

HOMECOMINGS

Mt. Olivet, Forest: July 20; services, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Scott Walter, preaching.

First, Satartia: July 20; Melvin Winters, former pastor, preaching; Wanda Woods, Satartia, music; Allen Winters, pastor.

Mission Hill, Wesson: July 20; services, 10:50 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; 1:15 p.m. service; Tommy Purvis, pastor.

Providence, Jayess: July 20; services, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds.

Pelahatchie, Pelahatchie: July 27; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; and singing following noon meal; Barry Corbett, Kosciusko, for-

mer pastor, guest speaker; Eric McNair, Pearl, former minister of music, song leader; Scott Rogers, pastor.

Sarepta, Meadville: July 27; services, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner after worship to be followed by special singing; special offering for cemetery; Webb Armstrong, pastor.

Antioch, Columbus: July 27; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; C. C. Burns, guest speaker.

Hurley, Hurley: July 27; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch immediately afterwards; Mark Ely, Cleburne, Texas, guest speaker; Bobby and Beth Martin, Jackson, Ala., music.

Evangelism cookout a success

Glory Land Mission Church, an outreach ministry of Mt. Olive Church, Hattiesburg, held an evangelistic cookout on June 28.

The purpose of the cookout was threefold: to lead people to Christ; to become acquainted with the people in the Bouie Street area where the church is located; and to invite everyone to come and worship.

The targeted age group was 5-year-olds and up. "Anyone who came by in this age range and allowed us to share the gospel with them, received a free catfish dinner," said David Scott, pastor.

"The success was overwhelming. We experienced people coming not so much for the dinners, but more so because it provided an outlet for them to talk about their problems and about their relationship with Jesus Christ.

All together, there were 100 people whom we shared the gospel of Christ with, 39 accepted Christ; 17 desired membership; and 12 came as candidates for baptism," Scott said.

Restrictive bill passes in Russian legislature

MOSCOW (BP) — A Russian Orthodox-backed law to restrict the free practice of faith and limit missionary work sailed through two final votes in Russia's legislature in late June. It soon will face action by President Boris Yeltsin.

Orthodox leaders and nationalists proposed the bill as a surprise to evangelicals in Russia and then quickly pushed it through. The last vote, on June 23, was 330-8.

Evangelicals had been working with a legislative committee to help frame a law that would appease Russians protesting cult activity but not violate human rights under international agreements.

They were shut out of the process as extremists revised the proposed law, stripping religious groups of legal rights if they were not registered with the communist

government 15 years ago. The revision affords special rights to groups with a 50-year history and a presence in half of Russia's regions and territories.

Depending on how officials interpret the law, it could impede much of the evangelical activity that has developed since the breakup of the Soviet Union and the fall of communism. It also would regulate any church that refused to register during Soviet days and operated underground.

Further, the bill would eliminate missionary activity except as approved by religious groups with legal rights.

It would curtail the activities of many groups without legal rights, unless they get permission from local government overseers. Evangelicals, of course, fear their overseers could be hostile Orthodox leaders, non-

Christian religious leaders or even atheists.

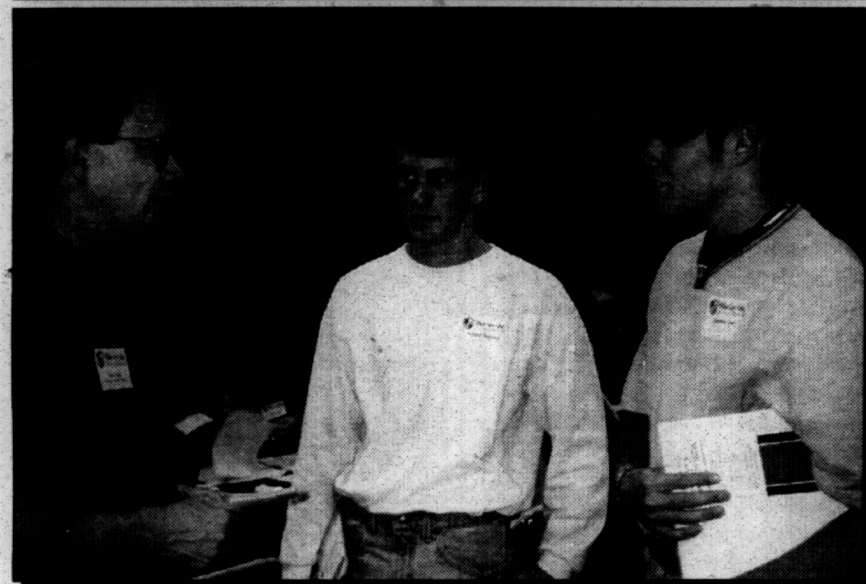
In principle, the bill reverses the religious freedom won in Soviet Russia just before the country embraced democracy in 1991.

It's unclear whether Yeltsin will veto the law, and if he does, whether the legislature will override his veto.

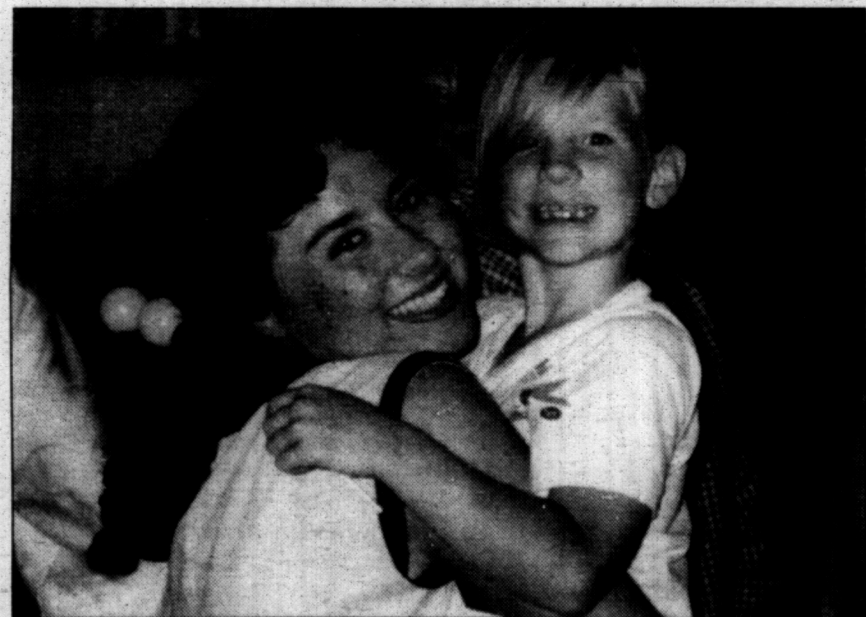
Some analysts say Yeltsin is less likely to stand against this law than he was a similar one passed in 1993, which died later that year when he dismissed parliament.

"This is not the first time the Orthodox Church has postured itself to move in an effective way against (other) religions," said Mississippian Danny Panter, who leads work for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB — formerly Foreign Mission Board) in Russia and other former Soviet republics.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



Survival Weekend '97, hosted by the William Carey College (WCC) Baptist Student Union (BSU), will take place Aug. 15-17. "Our goal is to get students interested in the BSU and to become involved in the long term," said Tim Glaze, director of the BSU. Survival Weekend '97 is open to all students who entered WCC in the winter or spring trimester, as well as new freshman and transfer students. Registration for the weekend will begin in the Student Center Aug. 15 at 4:30 p.m. The registration fee of \$20 includes all activities, meals, "Survival Guide," and a T-shirt. Other activities planned by the BSU are Ichthus Week, Sept. 8-11; College Student Conference, Sept. 26-27; Priority Lunch and Main Event are weekly events held on campus, the times and dates are Priority Lunch, Thurs., 11:45 a.m.-12:25 p.m. and Main Event, Wed., 9 p.m. For more information, call Glaze, (601) 582-6161 or BSU office, 582-6386. Glaze (pictured) speaks with new freshman students William Rushing of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and Thomas Lusk of Greenwell Springs, La., about Survival Weekend '97.



Jamie Jackson of Jackson, a recent graduate in musical theatre at William Carey College, hugs a YMCA day camper at a benefit performance of Carey Dinner Theatre's production of "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" held recently on campus. The children, third to sixth graders from Hattiesburg and Purvis, met the cast and received lollipops after the show.



Dean J. Richard Hurt of Mississippi College Law School has been selected as the recipient of the 1997 Chief Justice Award. The award is presented to a member of the Mississippi Bar who has distinguished himself or herself through a record of public service and who has advanced the credibility and image of the legal profession in Mississippi. Hurt joined the faculty as Mississippi College Law School in 1980 and has served as assistant and associate dean. He received his education at Mississippi College, Baylor University, and Yale University. Pictured (from left) are Hurt and Chief Justice Dan Lee.

STAFF CHANGES

Michael Memorial Church, Gulfport, has called **Billy W. Bowie** as minister of music effective June 29. A native of Marks, Bowie received his education at Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Osceola, Ark.

First Church, Ocean Springs, has called **Gary Knight** as minister to students. A native of Baton Rouge, La., Knight is a graduate of Memphis State and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served at Union Church, Tylertown, and McDowell Road Church, Jackson.

First Church, Charleston, has called **Grover Glenn** as pastor effective July 1. A native of Greenville, Glenn received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was New Palestine Church, Picayune.

First Church, Horn Lake, has called **J. David Spencer** as minister of youth/activities. A native of Senatobia, Spencer is a graduate of Delta State University and Southwestern Seminary. He previously served at First Church, Florence.

Monticello Church, Lawrence Association, has called **Michael L. Jones** as associate pastor and minister of youth effective June 1. A native of Birmingham, Ala., Jones received his education at Samford University and completing seminary studies at New Orleans Seminary through extension courses. His previous place of service is Smoke Rise Church, Warrior, Ala.



Jones

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Kirk and Walker

Bubba Walker (right) was ordained to the ministry by Salem Church, Raymond, where he serves as minister to youth. Walker grew up in First Church, Brookhaven. Pictured with Walker is Lee Kirk, pastor.

Johnny Michael Jolly is manager of the Baptist Book Store in Jackson. A Mississippian, Jolly was born in Union, and has lived in Carthage, Jackson, and Edinburg. Jolly is a graduate of Mississippi State University. He



Jolly

and his wife, the former Cheryl Lynn White, are the parents of two children.

First Church, Yazoo City, ordained **Richard Clifton Jennings** to the ministry. He has recently been called as pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church, Lexington. Jennings is a graduate of Holmes Community College and is currently taking courses at the Jackson

campus of New Orleans Seminary. Jennings, a 22-year employee of Mississippi Chemical Corporation, plans to serve as a bivocational pastor. He and his wife Peggy are the parents of two children.

Len Ware Jr. was licensed to the ministry by First Church, Lexington, on May 25. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Len Ware Sr., and will be a senior at Central Holmes Academy in Lexington this fall. Ware is available for supply preaching and speaking and may be contacted at (601) 834-1720 or 834-3731. Matt Buckles is interim pastor.

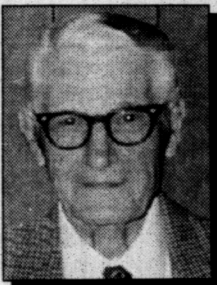
Vivian Higginbotham, long time member of First Church, Pascagoula, recently celebrated 73 years in the church choir,

making her one of the longest serving members of a church choir in the Southern Baptist Convention. She was honored at a special ceremony on June 28. "Ms. Higgy," as she is fondly known, became church pianist in 1924 at the age of 12. She later served as organist before shifting to the choir.

Wellman Church, Bogie Chitto, recently recognized its oldest deacons and awarded them a certificate of Deacon Emeritus. They are **Bill Castilaw** (91) serving as deacon for more than 50 years, and **Ellzey Lewis** who served for more than 25 years. Jim Everett is pastor.



Castilaw



Lewis



Norris



Rock



Jenkins

Three men from Riverhill Church, Fulton, recently surrendered to preach. They are **Brent Norris**, **Jody Rock**, and **Grant Jenkins**. Kevin Merritt is pastor.



Underwood and Merritt



Whittmon

Riverhill Church, Fulton, recently ordained **Mike Underwood** and **Allen Whitmon** as deacons. Pictured with Underwood (above left) is Kevin Merritt, pastor.



Bruce Weems was ordained as a deacon by First Church, Lake, on June 15. Pictured from left are LaVerne Summerlin, pastor; and Weems and his wife Charlotte.



Jimmy McDill, pastor, was presented a plaque by **Leon Harrison**, chairman of deacons, in honor of ten years of service to Hopewell Church, Little Rock. Pictured (from left) are McDill and Harrison.



Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, recently honored **Claude Smith** as the oldest active member at 90, and **Olive Roberts** for longest consecutive membership of 76 years. Nathan L. Barber Sr. is pastor.

VBS dates

Raymond Road, Jackson:
July 21-25; 6-8:30 p.m.;
ages 3 through 6th grade;
rodeo/hot-dog cookout, Sat.,
June 19, 10 a.m.-noon;
Tammy Anderson, VBS director;
Jim Burnett, pastor.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Members of Southwest Gideons Auxiliary in Jackson recently distributed more than 400 Gideon Bibles to Mississippi Baptist Medical Center nurses as part of the group's annual service project at the Medical Center. Pictured are Ollie Brown, Southwest Gideon's Auxiliary scripture secretary, presenting a Bible to Deborah Lewis, RN of Baptist's sixth floor nursing team.



First Church, Columbia, had one of its largest Recognition/Coronation Services on May 18. Pictured are 13 Queens with Crown Bearers, four Queens with Scepter and attendants, Queen Regent and attendant, and three Queens Regent-in-Service with attendants. In addition there were 25 Mission Friends, 17 RAs, and 31 GAs who were recognized.

Farmhaven Church, Canton, will celebrate its 72nd anniversary on Sept. 28. Grant McElveen, former pastor, will be the guest speaker at 10:45 a.m. Lunch will be served. There will be a special music program at 1 p.m. Charles Gentry is pastor.

Bethel Church, Louisville, will celebrate its 150th birthday on July 27. The celebration will begin at 11 a.m. A time of testimonials will follow dinner on

the grounds. Anyone with pictures or historical memorabilia is encouraged to get in touch with the church office. Keith D. Swartz is pastor.

Timely Answers to Key Questions: Selected Parables of Luke, a preview of the 1998 Winter Bible Study, will be taught as a workshop July 28-30 at New Orleans Seminary. The workshop cost is \$59 which includes registration fee and conference materials. For more information or to register, call Continuing Education at 1-800-NOBTS-01, ext. 3260.

The Institute for Christian Leadership will offer its seventh conference on Aug. 4-5 at Mississippi College (MC). Stuart and Jill Briscoe, both natives of England, are the featured speakers. The conference will begin on Aug. 4 at 1:30 p.m. and end on Aug. 5 at 9 p.m. Stuart Briscoe, who has served as pastor of Elmbrook Church, Brookfield, Wis., for 27 years, will lead five sessions from 1 Peter during the two days entitled, *Living Godly in an Ungodly World*. Jill Briscoe will lead five sessions from the



The Women On Mission of First Church, Picayune, hosted an International Food Tasting Celebration on April 22 with GAs presenting the program and serving international fare. GA leaders are Melonee Franklin, Susan Tyson, and Melonie Lewis. The celebration committee in global attire (pictured, standing, from left) are Gale Taylor, Brenda Varnado, and Pat Goodrich; (seated) Nell McQueen, Connie Tapley, and Helen Wilson, chairman.



Enon Church, Jasper County, recently held ground breaking services for a new fellowship building. Cliff Padgett was serving as interim pastor at the time.

book of Job entitled, *Facing the Struggles of Life*. The cost is \$30 for individuals and \$40 for couples. In connection with the two day ministers' meeting, the Institute will offer laypersons an opportunity for a Monday evening with the Briscoes. This meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Aug. 4 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. A reception

will follow the conferences. No conference fee will be charged for the meeting at Morrison Heights Church but reservations for childcare are required. To register at both MC and Morrison Heights Church, contact Carole Moore at the Office of Continuing Education, Box 4185, Clinton, MS 39058 or call (601) 925-3265.

REVIVAL DATES

Ridgecrest, Corinth: July 20-23; 7 p.m.; Steve Cowart, Lufkin, Texas, preaching and singing; Charles Stephenson, pastor.

First, Satartia: July 21-25; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Mike Grenn, Columbia, evangelist; Wanda Woods, Satartia, music; Allen Winters, pastor.

Antioch, Louin: July 20-23; Sunday, regular times; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Clyde Little, Bay Springs, evangelist; Raymond Delk, music; Faye Pippen, piano.

Terry's Creek, Magnolia: July 20-25; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., noon meal, Discipleship Training, 6:30 p.m., and worship, 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10

a.m. and 7 p.m.; Donnie Guy, Biloxi, evangelist; Bill Herman, music; Breaux Tagueant, pastor.

Pleasant Grove, Brookhaven: July 20-25; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., Discipleship Training, 5:30 p.m., and worship, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, McComb, evangelist; Hubert Greer, Wesson, music; Kent H. Cochran, pastor.

Mission Hill, Wesson: July 21-23; services, 7 p.m.; different speaker and special music nightly; Tommy Purvis, pastor.

Providence, Jayess: July 21-25; services, 7 p.m.; Mike Fort, evangelist; Steve Walker, music; Vanessa King, pianist.

Mt. Moriah, Bogue Chitto: July 20-24; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. with Kevin White as evangelist; lunch in fellowship hall; 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; different speakers each day are Mon., Willie Welch; Tues. Danny Dodds; Wed., Aubrey Case; and Thurs., Bendon Ginn; Danny Moss, pastor.

Sunrise, Carthage: July 20-23; Allen Stephens, director of missions, Rankin Association, evangelist; Steve Turner, Sunrise Church, music; Frank Smith, pastor.

Liberty (Mississippi): July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; S. A. (Sonny) Adkins, director, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board, evangelist; Max Burrows, Meridian, music; Martin Hayden, pastor.

Oak Grove, Mendenhall: July 20-25; Sunday, morning services followed by dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Randy Rich, Prentiss, evangelist; Health Wilkerson, music; Gary Lawson, pastor.

New Providence, Hazlehurst: July 27-Aug. 1; Bobby Williamson, Brandon, evangelist; James Dykes, Wesson, music; James D. Whittington, pastor.

O'Zion, Meadville: July 20-25; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and afternoon services; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Robert Sanders New Salem Church, evangelist; Randy Carruth, Summit, music; Dwayne Dunaway, pastor.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

The great high priest

Hebrews 4:14-5:10; 7

By Wayne VanHorn

Today's lesson focuses upon Jesus in his role as High Priest. All priests in Israel had two main functions. First, they were responsible for teaching God's Law to the people. Second, they served as administrators of the sacrifices that God had ordained to make his people ritually clean. Therefore priests represented Holy God to sinful man and sinful man to Holy God. Without this intermediary service, sinful people would not be able to relate to a sinless God.

The Available High Priest (4:14-16). Hebrews 4 deals with the central issue of entering into God's rest. Disobedience to God keeps people from entering into

that rest (4:6,11). Disobedience cannot be hidden because God's Word is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart (4:12) and because no one is hidden from God's sight (4:13). Since people cannot hide the disobedience that separates them from God's rest, they need a High Priest to help them overcome temptation and to be obedient. Jesus is that High Priest.

"He has passed through the heavens" indicates that he has direct access to God (4:14). He also has been tempted in the same way that sinful people are tempted, yet he remained sinless (4:15). Therefore, since he has mastered successfully



VanHorn

temptation, we can and should have total confidence in his ability to help us when we are tempted to disobey. The "time of need" mentioned in Heb. 4:16 refers to those times when we are tempted to disobey God. Jesus is available to help us be victorious.

The Need for the High Priest (5:1-3). The High Priest was needed to offer sacrifices and to "deal gently with the ignorant and misguided" (5:1-2). He understood their frailty because he himself was subjected to the same weaknesses (5:2). Yet because he was as sinful as the people for whom he interceded, he had to offer sacrifices for himself as well.

The Appointed High Priest (5:4-6). **The Superior High Priest (7:1-28).** To hold the office of High Priest a man had to be called of God. He did not take this office of high honor on his

own initiative. God called Aaron, the first high priest; he also called Christ to serve as our high priest. The writer of Hebrews employs Psalm 2:7, the so-called adoption formula, to indicate that Jesus was in a special relationship with the Father. To this special relationship the writer also adds Psalm 110:4 to indicate that Jesus serves as high priest. Thus, we have a high priest who experiences a special relationship with God. Further support of the uniqueness of this High Priest is the phrase "according to the order of Melchizedek." Students of Genesis will remember that Melchizedek appeared to Abraham upon his return from delivering Lot. He appears suddenly with no reference to his genealogy or relationship to God's people. He is both King of Salem and priest of God Most High (Gen. 14:17-20). Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek. The writer of

Hebrews views took full advantage of Melchizedek as a type of Christ (Heb. 7:1-28). Thus, like Melchizedek, Jesus was superior to Abraham (7:6-7). Additionally, Jesus' priesthood was perpetual like that of Melchizedek and in contrast to the priesthood of Aaron.

The Sacrificial High Priest (5:7-10). The honor bestowed upon Jesus as our perpetual high priest did not come without great cost. "He learned obedience from the things which he suffered" (5:8). His sacrificial death made him the perfect high priest through whom sinful people gain access to eternal salvation (5:9). He is God's ultimate high and eternal high priest. We never read of the end of Melchizedek's life (7:3), neither will we read of the end of Jesus' high priesthood. God has established him forever. God's rest comes through Jesus.

VanHorn is pastor, First Church Columbia.

LIFE AND WORK

When in need of forgiveness

Psalm 51:1-15

By Geneva England

At a motel amid the refreshing air of the Appalachian foothills, a Gideon Bible invited examination. Its pages had been neatly folded and passages numbered so that some lonely, lost sinner could read the way to salvation. We followed the path and, just as lovingly, refolded the pages, praising God that some thoughtful Christian had marked the salvation passages for the unsaved journeymen in this world. How sad that many lost souls will never read any Bible nor hear the good news about Christ's gift of salvation.

Although Psalm 51 directly relates to David's great sin, an unbeliever can find salvation

by the same process David found forgiveness. He confessed his sins, was cleansed, was given a new heart, and became an effective witness for God.

The setting of this Psalm involved David, the mighty King of Israel, being caught in blatant sin. The prophet Nathan related a story to David about a poor man's lamb being stolen by a rich neighbor. Incensed, David demanded that the rich man be found and made to repay fourfold. Nathan replied, "Thy art the man" (2 Sam. 12:7). David felt instant remorse, shame, and guilt.

The Cry For Forgiveness (Ps. 51:1-2). "Me" and "mine" appear repeatedly in this Psalm



England

because David admitted his willful transgression of God's moral laws. After having committed adultery with Bathsheba, he sank even lower by arranging the death of her husband Uriah. When David, "a man after God's own heart," finally realized that the lust of his eyes and heart was controlling his life, he sincerely fell to his knees in repentance and cried out for cleansing. He pleaded no excuse, admitting sinfulness even from birth.

The Cleansing From Sin (Ps. 51:3-6). David mentioned hyssop because it was used in both the ceremonial cleansing of a leper and in putting the blood on the door frame at Passover. Both picture the atoning sacrifice of Christ. The blood sacrifice of Christ is the only means for cleansing sins. We, like David, must confess our sins, repent of them, and

acknowledge our need of God's mercy and grace. Our repentance must be so sincere that we run from sin. In David's case, Nathan looked at the repentant, sobbing king, and said, "The Lord also hath put away thy sin." (2 Sam. 12:13).

The Creation Of A New Heart (Ps. 51:7-12). By repentance, David, the great sinner, became David the great saint. Forgiven of his sins, he prayed for a closer walk with God, the comforts of a clean conscience, and the strength to withstand Satan's snares. David wisely recognized that only God could restore and sustain his former joy.

The Counsel To Others (Ps. 51:13-15). Following his confession and restoration, he resolved to teach others about the tender mercies of God. We should do likewise.

Every human sins by nature. Until he recognizes himself as a sinner with nothing to offer God but "filthy rags," he deserves

nothing less than eternal damnation. However, God's tender mercy grants lost sinners undeserved forgiveness. God loves us so much that he sent his only beloved son to die on a cross for our sins collectively, but for yours and mine individually. He blotted our sin record white as snow. Like the Gospel song says, "Jesus paid it all; all to him I owe."

No human effort can save a soul; no amount of money can purchase salvation: Salvation is by grace through faith. "It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). Based on his experience, David's lips proclaimed the desire of God: He doesn't want our sacrifices, but the obedience of a contrite heart one broken, humbled, and mourning because of sin. Using David's lead, all cleansed saints should work for God's glory not for salvation, but because of salvation.

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Understanding church roles

I Corinthians 12:12-31a

By Jason Bird

The church is unlike any other organization on this earth. It is not a civic or social club. Though it should help many people, it is not a charity. Though it educates people for obedience to God, it is not a school. The church is a living, spiritual organism, uniquely put together by God. Each member of the church is an important part of this body, put there through the wisdom and sovereignty of God and given spiritual gifts to help the church accomplish its mission. In the opening verses of chapter 12, Paul describes how the Holy Spirit gives each person gifts for the common good of

the church. In the passage we study today, he explains how those gifts are integrated into one body that glorifies the Lord.

One Body, Many Parts (12:12-14). This passage begins with a stated principle: the body is a unit. Our physical bodies are made of thousands of different parts. Yet, when placed together by God, those parts make up only one, single person. In the same way, God's church is comprised of many different people, each with their own unique personalities and gifts. Through Jesus, these people comprise one body, his church.

No Part Is Unnecessary



Bird

(12:15-17). After stating the principle of the unity of the Body of Christ, Paul describes the diversity of the individual components. Paul states it would be ridiculous to think of a person made entirely of only one body part. Many different parts of our physical bodies each performing its own function are necessary for life. The same is true of the church.

The church needs each individual in its body of believers. The church may function without the active participation of all members, but it will not function as well. Members should never underestimate their part in helping the church spread the gospel and glorify God. That truth should encourage believers to discover, develop, and use their God-given spiritual gifts.

Each Part Is Placed By God (12:18-20). Churches should

remember that God is the one who will build his church. Individual members should not compete with each other for position of leadership or more visible spiritual gifts; nor should local congregations compete with other congregations for highest attendance or the biggest buildings. When individual believers and congregations primarily use their gifts to glorify God, then he can arrange the members of his body to accomplish what he desires.

No Part Is Self Sufficient (12:21-26). In saying that all parts of the body are necessary, Paul indicates that no one should underestimate their importance to the church. Here he states that no one should go to the other extreme and overestimate their importance to the church either. Understanding our interdependence, members should remain more aware of those around them. In the body, each

part is equally important — the silent prayer warrior as vital to the work of the church as the pastor who proclaims the message. Each one needs the other. That is why he states, "if one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

Every Believer Is A Part Of The Body (12:27-31). Every believer is a part of the church. Upon becoming a Christian, they join the "called-out ones." God decides who receives specific gifts within the church. A believer should not desire or seek the gifts given to another. Instead, he should faithfully use the gift God has given him to glorify God.

When believers understand their role in the church they are better prepared for God's purpose. Each believer is essential, has been given a gift, and must prepare himself to use that gift for God's glory.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.

There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.

God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

All share handicap, Miss America believes

By Charles Willis
Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A former Miss America who considers her deafness "a gift from God" told employees of the Baptist Sunday School Board "we all have the same handicap."

Speaking to a packed chapel service June 27 in Nashville, Tenn., Heather Whitestone said the common handicap is that "we cannot see Jesus or hear Jesus; we have to feel him and hear his voice in our heart."

Crowned Miss America in 1995, Whitestone has been profoundly deaf since she was 18 months old. Her lifelong challenges to communicate and to achieve personal goals are detailed in "Listening to My Heart," her recently released biography published by Doubleday.

"Communication has always been my greatest obstacle, and it will be a problem until I die," she said. "Deafness is a gift

from God because it helps me listen to him. And I can't hear people gossip behind my back," she laughed.

Rearred Episcopalian, she told of a Southern Baptist Sunday School teacher who caused her to realize she needed to confess her sins and to ask Jesus into her heart.

"I didn't understand what she was talking about," Whitestone recalled. "Why should I ask Jesus to come into my heart because I already love him and I believe that he is the son of God?"

She began to read the Bible and came to understand what she needed to do. She returned to Shades Mountain Church in Birmingham, Ala., to profess her faith in Jesus before the congregation.



Whitestone

"Doing that as a teenager was very difficult," she said. "It took a lot of courage, but I'm glad I did because Jesus is the key to my success. He has helped me to overcome so many obstacles, to achieve God's dream for me."

Growing up in the hearing world, Whitestone said, she sometimes felt left out of family conversations at holidays. At the same time, when she entered a "Miss Deaf Alabama" competition, other contestants criticized her for using her voice instead of American Sign Language.

To make matters worse, she had learned Signing Exact English, a more advanced vocabulary and totally different from American Sign Language.

"That discouraged me a great deal," she said. "I went home and I said to God, 'Who am I? I do not feel I am a part of the hearing world, but the deaf world says I am not part of them either.'"

While reading the Bible she

came upon John 20:29, "Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

"God made me feel wanted," she recounted. "He said, 'You are my child just like anybody else. It's just that I have a different plan for each of you.'"

"That's why I chose the title for my book," she said. "Everybody has different dreams given by God. It is their responsibility to listen to God's voice because only God knows what is best for all of us."

Whitestone said after gaining the Miss America title, she realized that success is not easy.

"Once you become successful, you have a greater responsibility to be a role model. People are looking up to you, and the devil is trying to destroy your success."

"The devil doesn't want people to know it is the Lord who helps you to be successful."

Today Whitestone is married to John McCallum and lives in Atlanta, where they are members of First Church.

Leadership is a noble calling, author teaches

GREENVILLE, Ill. (BP) — Bob Briner has won Emmys, Golden Eagles, and Freedom Foundation awards for his sports specials, tournaments, and documentaries.

He once served as promotions director for the Miami Dolphins professional football team and later co-founded World Championship Tennis and the Association of Tennis Professionals.

He produced "Dravecky — A Story of Courage and Grace," recognized as the 1993 Evangelical Film of the Year.

Lessons of Jesus, Vol. 1" — will be released in September. Briner worked with Ray Pritchard, pastor of Calvary Memorial Church, Oak Park, Ill., as co-author.

"We haven't done a very good job of strategically placing the gospel in leadership areas," Briner said. "Producing godly CEOs or godly secretaries of state is really expensive. I'm not talking just in terms of dollars, but the kind of commitment that it takes both for the would-be leader and the institution that's committed to developing them."

Leadership is a noble calling, Briner insisted. Some Christians have "shied away from aspiring to leadership" out of a false sense of humility, equating leadership with self-promotion.

A call to leadership must be accompanied by a commitment to excellence, he said. For that reason, he shows the film, "My Fair Lady," to college students he is discipling, emphasizing the importance of looking your best, speaking well, and learning to be comfortable in executive board rooms.

"We need to think about those things, not in a superficial sense, but for the sake of the gospel," Briner said.

In his book, Briner addresses 52 passages from the gospel of Mark, each in a short chapter. The book is designed for individual or group study for Christians desiring to grow as leaders.

"I hope that we'll get parents, pastors, our Christian colleges and Christians in secular colleges to think about the whole area of leadership and to see leadership positions as a mission field," Briner said.

He cited positive and negative examples of Christian leadership at work.

"The church didn't abandon sports," he said. "For whatever reasons we were there and showed up, and now the gospel has a tremendous acceptance all throughout sports and from the major leagues down to the little league."

"We've done a good job of ministering to, discipling athletes and their wives," Briner continued. "Now we need to figure out how to get the really committed, mature Christians in sports out into the marketplace more."

On the other hand, he said Christians did not seek leadership roles when television emerged as a new medium.

"I could go for weeks in television and never find, not just another Christian, but even anybody who had a sympathetic attitude to the gospel," Briner said.

"We need to get people who are competent and committed and classy to be in the areas where programming decisions are made, where it's determined what kind of message is going to spill out into 93 million homes every week."

If asked by a grandchild what he did with his time in his later years, Briner said, "I didn't want to have to tell him, 'Well, I made a shoe deal for Michael Jordan' or 'I got the NCAA Final Four into three other countries' or 'I put another tennis event on television.'"

"I wanted to tell him that at least to the best of my limited ability I have tried to make some difference for eternity and tried to be obedient to what I thought Jesus was telling me to do."

"The obligation is really strong to make my life count for the kingdom. I enjoy life, but I don't rest easy. I really need to redeem the time," he said.

Bibliocipher

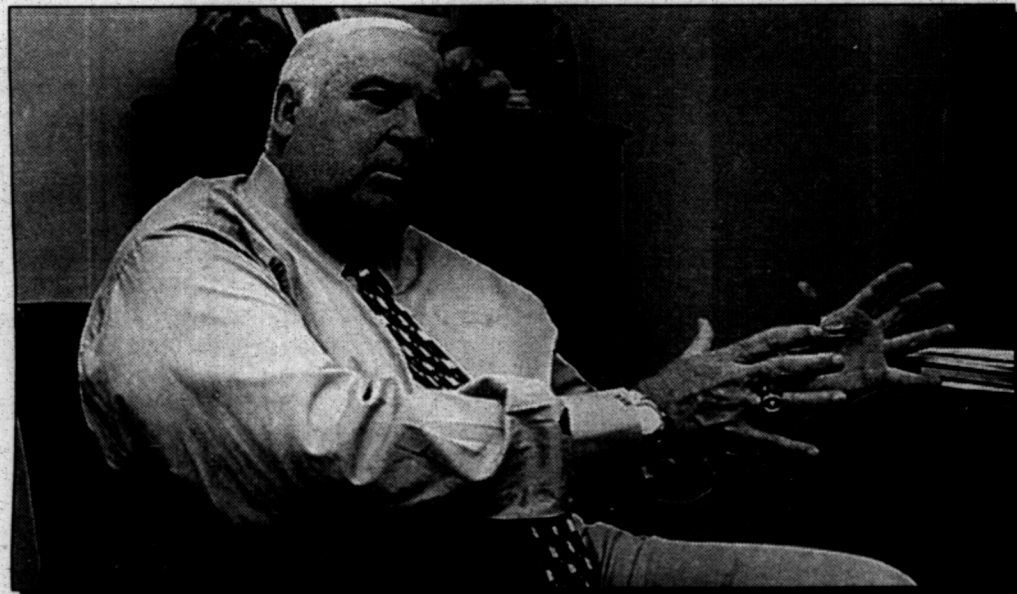
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IJA MKF TAQOF JI TJL MKQM
PANETFMK UQXBQMNJE KQMK
QWWFQAFL MJ QXX SFE.

MNMCU MHJ: FXFBFE

Clue: S equals M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Eleven Twenty-six.



Briner

In 1997, Briner's priorities center in Greenville, Ill., where he disciples 20 male and female student athletes each semester at his alma mater, Greenville College. He also spends countless hours in the library writing books that communicate his central message — Jesus is relevant for all of life.

The author of "Roaring Lambs" and "Lambs Among Wolves" published in 1993 and 1995, Briner signed a contract in 1996 with the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers (B&H) to produce five books. He chose B&H, he said, because they "had the best idea of the ministry and business combination, how to be the best steward of the writing."

His first B&H book — "The Leadership